

## Enjoying the Refuge

The refuge is open to the public all year during daylight hours only. Please help protect wildlife and their habitats by obeying all regulations. Some areas are closed to public use, so please observe signs. Access is allowed through designated accesses only.

### Visitor Center

The Visitor Center provides an observation room overlooking Lake Lowell, interpretive panels about the wildlife and history of the refuge, and a kid's activity area.

The Visitor Center is open weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, except on Federal holidays. Organized groups can be accommodated at other times by making special arrangements with refuge staff.

### Environmental Education

Refuge facilities are available to teachers and other educators to help promote an understanding of wildlife and the natural environment. Refuge staff can provide short presentations to visiting groups or assist teachers before or after visits to the refuge. Call to schedule an educational program or to discuss facility availability.

### Disabled Visitors

An accessible fishing dock is available on the west end of the Upper Dam. The Centennial Trail is an accessible interpretive trail from the Visitor Center to and across the Upper Dam. Access difficulty elsewhere varies. Disabled visitors should consult refuge staff for suggestions about visiting the area safely.

### Snake River Islands

All refuge islands are closed to all entry from February 1 to June 14 to protect nesting wildlife. Several heron and gull-nesting islands are closed to all entry from February 1 to June 30. Signs indicate seasonal island closure dates.

### Vehicle Travel

All motorized vehicles, including all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs), are restricted to county roads. Park only in designated parking areas.

## Hiking



### *Hiking the Gotts Point Trail*

Hiking is allowed seasonally off of designated trails as follows: East Side Recreation Area, all year; Gotts Point, 2/1-9/30; Murphy's Neck, 3/15-9/30; North Side and South Side Recreation Areas, 8/1-1/31.



© Mike Shipman

## Boating



Between April 15 and September 30, motorized and non-motorized boats may be used. Boat-launching facilities are located at the Lower Dam Recreation Area, the east and west ends of the Upper Dam, Access No. 1, and Access No. 7. All launching facilities are subject to closure due to low water levels. Between October 1 and April 14, only human-powered boats may be used, and only in the areas 200 yards in front of the Upper and Lower Dams. Boat ramps are blocked during this time.

Boating is permitted during daylight hours only. Please observe all No Wake Zones. Some are indicated by buoys; however, the No Wake Zone along the south shore is not marked by buoys. It is a 200-yard buffer measured from the edge of the shoreline or the emergent vegetation, whichever is closer to the center of the lake. Some areas, marked by signs or buoys, are permanently or seasonally closed to protect wildlife nesting and foraging habitat. Boaters may not anchor on or pull onto permanently or seasonally closed lands.

Refuge management encourages the use of CARB star-rated motors at the level of two stars and above to minimize negative impacts to water quality.

Kiteboarders and windsurfers may launch from any open shoreline, but must comply with all No Wake Zones.

### *Fishing Lake Lowell*



© Mike Shipman

### Swimming



Swimming is allowed from April 15 to September 30. Swimmers are encouraged to use designated swimming beaches at the East Upper Dam boat launch and at the Lower Dam Recreation Area. No lifeguards are present, and water quality is not regularly monitored. Swimming is not allowed around fishing facilities or immediately adjacent to boat launch areas.

### Organized Group Activities

Limited organized group activities are allowed, but only at the Lower Dam Recreation Area. For event requirements, contact the refuge.

### Jogging and Biking



Jogging and biking are allowed on designated multiuse trails and maintained roads in the North Side and East Side Recreation Areas. Groups of more than ten joggers or bicyclists require a Special Use Permit. Competitive events are prohibited.

### Horseback Riding



Horseback riding is allowed on designated multiuse trails in the North Side and East Side Recreation Areas. Groups of more than ten horses and riders require a Special Use Permit. Competitive events are prohibited.

### Pets



Pets are allowed on designated multiuse trails, on maintained roads, and in the Lower Dam Recreation Area as long as they are on a physical leash (6 feet long or less) at all times. Pet waste must be promptly removed. Hunting dogs may be off leash while actively hunting, but they must remain under strict voice control.

### Weapons



Target shooting is prohibited at all times. The use or possession of air guns, spears, gigs, paint-ball weapons, or other weapons other than firearms is prohibited.

### Prohibited Activities



Glass containers, open fires, fireworks, camping, overnight parking, driving a motorized vehicle off of roads, using radio-controlled vehicles and drones, on-ice activities other than ice fishing, using metal detectors, gathering wood, and collecting plants, animals, rocks, or other specimens are prohibited.

### Area Services



Food, gasoline, campgrounds and motels are available in nearby communities.



*Horseback riding on the Observation Hill Trail*

Susan Kain/USFWS

## Hunting & Fishing

### Hunting Regulations

All waterfowl, coot, upland game, and mourning dove hunters on the refuge are required to use non-toxic shot and may not possess lead shot in the field. Hunting dogs must be leashed unless actively hunting and remain under strict voice control at all times. Dog training is not allowed. Target shooting is prohibited.

Contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for current hunting regulations.

Although use of permanent blinds is prohibited, portable blinds are allowed if they are removed at the end of each day. Temporary blinds may be constructed from natural vegetation less than 3 inches in diameter and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Duck hunting at Lake Lowell*  
Todd Fenzl/USFWS



### Lake Lowell Unit Hunting

Hunting on the Lake Lowell Unit is limited to the East Side and South Side Recreation Areas. Only upland game birds, mourning doves, ducks, coots, and deer may be hunted. State seasons apply. Duck and coot hunters are limited to the use or possession of 25 shells per day per hunter. The deer hunt is a controlled hunt; check specific State and refuge regulations. Goose hunting is prohibited throughout the Lake Lowell Unit.

Duck and coot hunting in the East Side Recreation Area is walk-in only; no float tubes or boats are allowed. Duck and coot hunters in the South Side Recreation Area may use float tubes, non-motorized boats, and boats with electric motors only. The use or possession of gas-powered motors is prohibited. Boat use is limited to 200 yards from the water's edge of

hunt zones. Duck hunting is not allowed on foot from the ice.

*Canada geese*



USFWS

### Snake River Islands Unit Hunting

Hunting of waterfowl, coots, upland game, mourning doves, and deer is allowed on all islands of the Snake River Islands Unit during State seasons. Where the Snake River is the boundary between Idaho and Oregon, hunters from either state may hunt the islands according to the regulations of the State for which they are licensed. Lead buckshot is prohibited for hunting deer on the Snake River Islands Unit.

## Fishing

Game fish in the lake include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, perch, crappie, bluegill, rainbow trout, channel catfish, and brown bullhead. Contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for current fishing regulations. Live, nonnative aquatic bait is prohibited.

## Lake Lowell Unit Fishing

Some areas of the refuge are permanently or seasonally closed to protect wildlife; please watch for signs and check the map. During times when hiking is restricted to designated trails to protect nesting birds, access to bank fishing is allowed only from maintained roads and trails and within 100 yards of shoreline on either side of trails accessing the lakeshore. Wading access to fishing is allowed all year in Fishing Areas A and B and April 15 to September 30 from open shoreline. Ice fishing is allowed in Fishing Areas A and B, within 200 yards of the dams, unless otherwise posted by the Bureau of Reclamation.

## Snake River Islands Unit Fishing

Fishing from the shore of the Snake River Islands is prohibited during nesting season. All islands are closed from February 1 to June 14. The nesting closure extends through June 30 on a few heron and gull-nesting islands. Watch for signs.

*Recreational fishing*  
© Janice Engle

## Refuge Signs

Refuge signs inform visitors of permitted or restricted activities. Please help protect wildlife and their habitats by respecting these signs.



This sign marks the refuge boundary.



Areas designated by this sign are closed to *all* entry year round to protect wildlife.



Areas designated by this or similar signs are closed to *all* entry between the designated dates to protect wildlife.



Refuge islands are closed to *all* entry between the designated dates to protect nesting waterfowl and other birds.



Areas designated by this sign may be hunted as permitted by refuge regulations. See the *Hunting and Fishing* section of this brochure for more information. Target shooting is prohibited throughout the refuge.



All migratory bird and upland game hunters on the refuge are required to use non-toxic shot and may not possess lead shot in the field.